

Claims

1. A method for delivering items to a mobile customer comprising:

receiving order data from a customer's collocated wireless terminal, which order data includes identification of the type and quantity of goods and/or services ordered, the present position of the customer's wireless terminal, and one or more positions on the customer's anticipated route of travel;

identifying one or more possible supply locations from which the ordered items can be supplied;

identifying one or more possible deliverers for the ordered items from said possible locations;

determining rendezvous criteria for the customer and each identified deliverer from each identified delivery location;

calculating candidate rendezvous positions which satisfy the determined criteria; and

sending information proposing delivery rendezvous positions to the customer's wireless terminal.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the order data includes desired delivery time
2 information.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of calculating one or
2 more proposed routes for the customer to each proposed rendezvous position.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the order data includes customer travel
2 method and travel constraint information and wherein the step of calculating the
3 proposed routes incorporates the travel method and constraint information.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving from the customer's wireless terminal authorization to deliver the
3 items at a selected one of the proposed rendezvous positions;

4 dispatching a selected deliverer to deliver the items from a selected supply
5 position to the selected one rendezvous position; and

6 calculating a route for the deliverer to follow from the selected delivery
7 position to the selected rendezvous position.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of receiving from the customer'
2 wireless data terminal and from a deliverer's wireless data terminal which is collocated
3 with the deliverer, data which indicates their respective actual positions enroute to an
4 intended rendezvous position;

5 recalculating an updated delivery rendezvous position based upon the actual
6 positions of the customer and the deliverer;

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- 7 informing the customer and deliverer of the updated delivery position.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of transmitting to customer's
2 wireless data terminal and to the deliverer's wireless data terminal route information to
3 the updated delivery position.
- 1 8. A server computer programmed to implement the method of claim 6.
- 1 9. A customer's wireless data terminal programmed to implement the methods of claim
2 6.
- 1 10. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of transmitting a customer
2 identity-confirming message to the customer's wireless data terminal.
- 1 11. A server computer programmed to implement the method of claim 1.
- 1 12. A customer's wireless data terminal programmed to implement the methods of
2 claim 1.
- 1 13. Electrical signals transmitted on a cellular wireless communication system that are
2 modulated with information to implement the sending and receiving steps of claim 1.